

U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 10/667,033
Reply to Office Action dated January 26, 2005

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Original) A framing system for a composite concrete floor, the framing system comprising horizontally extending primary framing members supporting secondary framing members across the primary framing members, said primary and secondary framing members being made of a metallic structural material, each of said secondary framing members having two opposite ends provided with a shear shoe, said shear shoe being fixed to said primary framing members by means of a structural joint sufficient to provide a shear connection between said concrete floor and said primary framing members.
2. (Original) A framing system as defined in claim 1, wherein said shear shoes of each secondary framing member comprise an iron angle having:
 - one horizontally extending face fixed by means of said structural joint to a horizontal face of a respective one of said primary framing members, and
 - one vertically extending face fixed to said secondary framing members.
3. (Original) A framing system as defined in claim 2, wherein said structural joint is selected from the group consisting of a weld joint and a bolt joint.
4. (Original) A framing system as defined in claim 3, wherein said structural joint is a weld joint.
5. (Original) A framing system as defined in claim 1, wherein said secondary framing members have continuous shear connection to the concrete floor.

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6. (Original) A framing system as defined in claim 5, wherein said secondary framing members have a top chord embedded in the concrete floor, thereby providing said shear connection to the concrete floor.
7. (Original) A framing system as defined in claim 1, wherein said primary framing member is a truss.
8. (Original) A framing system as defined in claim 1, wherein said primary framing member is a steel beam.
9. (Original) A framing system as defined in claim 8, wherein said secondary framing members are open-web steel joist.
10. (Original) A framing system as defined in claim 1, wherein said metallic structural material is steel.
11. (Original) A method of erecting a framing system for a composite concrete floor comprising the steps of:
 - providing primary and secondary framing members made of a metallic structural material, each of said secondary framing members having two opposite ends provided with a shoe;
 - placing said primary framing members in parallel relation;
 - placing said secondary framing members transversally between said primary framing members with said shoes bearing on the primary framing members; and
 - fixing said shoes to said primary framing members with a structural joint sufficient to provide a shear connection for said primary framing members.

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12. (Original) A method as defined in claim 11, wherein said step of fixing consists of welding said shoes to the primary framing members.

13. (Original) A method as defined in claim 11, wherein said secondary framing members have a continuous shear connector.

14. (Original) A method as claimed in claim 13, wherein said shear connector is a continuous top chord adapted to be embedded in said concrete floor.